



# **Ohio Youth Advisory Board**

*Statewide Quarterly Meeting*

*Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026*



## **OHIO YAB Mission**

We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.

# ♥ Resource Knowledge ♥

# BINGO

What can each of the resources listed below help with?  
Ask others for insights as needed.

**Build your  
resource  
knowledge...**

AAC (21)	AFTERCARE	BILL OF RIGHTS	BRIDGES
CASA / GAL	CHAFEE FUNDS	CCMEP	ETV
FAFSA	FYI HOUSING VOUCHERS	JOB CORPS	KGAP C-21
OHIO MEDICAID	OHIO REACH	YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD	YOUTH OMBUDSMAN



# Brainstorming Topics

1. **DCY Priorities in Service Needs for Teens and Young Adults:** Youth recommendations.
2. **Educating Legislators About Holes in the Safety Net for Foster Youth:** Myth-busting for legislators.
3. **Parent and Youth Ambassador Team:** Expanding supports for transition-age youth.
4. **Testimonials** about the need for driving supports.

# Increased Requirements for Ohio Driver's License

## *DPSCD61: Driver's training requirements:*

- Individuals under age 21 must complete the full driver's education course and have 50 hours of practice driving with an adult.

***For transition-age foster youth,*** being able to identify a supportive adult who is willing to dedicate 50 hours to help them practice driving, and allow them to use their car and the cost of driver's ed will be a barrier.



# Loss of TANF-Independent Living Funding

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) previously provided TANF Independent Living (IL) funding directly to PCSAs to support youth in the custody of the agency who are age 14 and older or those who have emancipated and are between 18 and 21 years old.

This funding allocation helped young people develop skills and receive support for self-sufficiency and could be used for:

- Rent, security deposits, utility deposits and utility payments for up to four months.
- Up to \$1000 to assist with furniture.
- Driver's education classes and driver's license fees.
- A one-time payment to purchase or help with the cost of a used car.
- A one-time payment to assist with car repairs for up to 2K.
- Work clothes, tools, supplies, examinations/testing, and/or permit fees needed to obtain or maintain employment.

# Pondering Next Steps

## Regarding increased driving requirements:

- Governor DeWine recently announced [\\$6 million in grant funding](#) to help expand access to driver training in Ohio. As part of the [Ohio Traffic Safety Office's Drive to Succeed Program](#), four educational service centers (ESCs) in Ohio will receive funding to provide driver training scholarships to eligible new drivers under age 21. **How can we pair current and former foster youth with this provision?**
- **Is there a way to establish waivers** for former foster youth for driving schools and/or to make them automatically eligible for Drive to Succeed programs?



HAPPY  
*new year*  
2026



New  
and  
Good

